# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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## How to Argue

By Walter E. Myer

WHEN you engage in an argument, do you ever stop to figure out what your purpose is? Why are you arguing? What do you hope to accomplish by the discussion? You really need to think about your purposes, for the form of the discussion will depend very largely upon what you plan to gain by it.

People often argue for the same reason that children wrestle, or that dogs play or fight. It is a form of exercise. Dogs like nothing better than to engage in make-believe combat. They feel the urge to bark or growl, and to wrestle. Children have the same combative impulse. If asked why they are forever wrestling, they may say, "Just for fun," but in fact they are getting needed physical exercise.

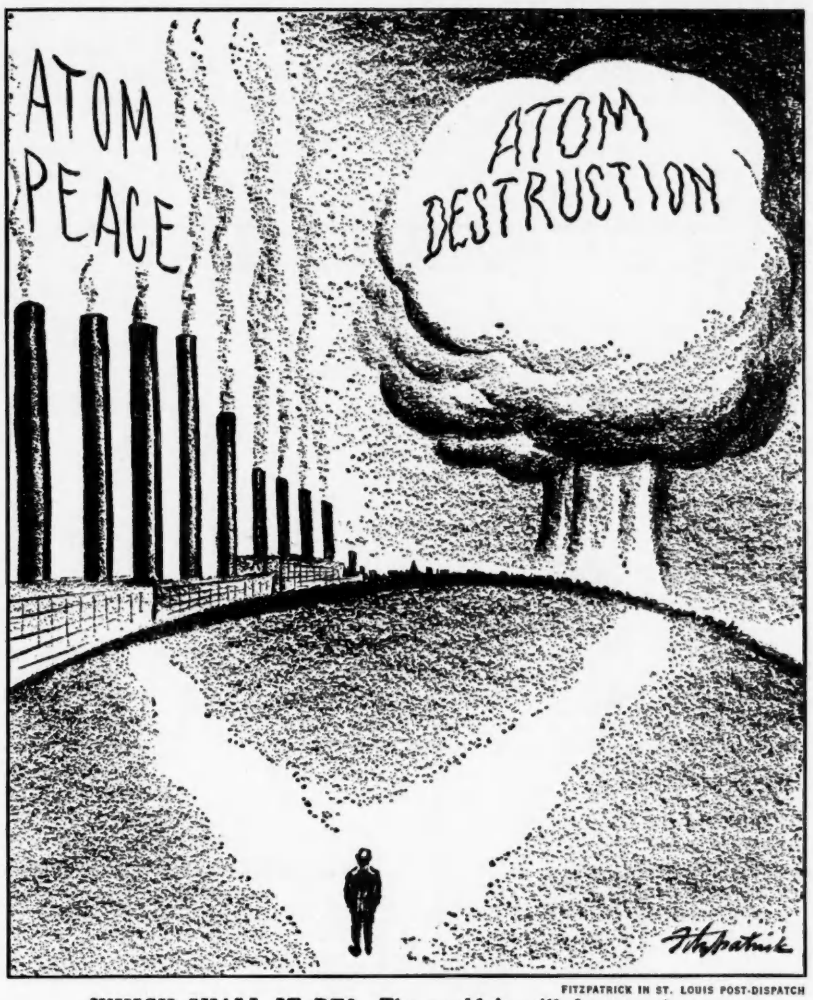
As the children grow older, they feel the urge to exercise their minds as well as their bodies. Hence, they engage in mental gymnastics. They argue, try to overcome their companions in discussion. When this is the purpose of an argument, rules of logic may be ignored. One does not need to be especially reasonable. Any kind of statement or assertion or reply is in order, if it gains a point over one's opponent. The purpose is to get the better of the person with whom one is engaged in the exercise of mental gymnastics.

You may, however, have another purpose when you argue. You may be trying to persuade someone to do as you wish him to do. If your object is persuasion, you take care not to embarrass the one with whom you are talking. You make no effort to display your skill or your wit at his expense. You are more likely to flatter the other fellow. You use your skill to make him see your point of view, but you are always tactful and considerate.

You may have still another motive. You are not engaged merely in playful mental exercise and you are not trying to persuade anyone, but you are trying to find out the truth about something. So you engage in discussion with one whose opinions you respect. You state your point of view and then you listen to his. You are as anxious to learn something from him as you are to have him learn from you. The hope is that as a result of this discussion, both parties to it will come out with more facts and with better-balanced ideas than when they went in.

Walter E. Myer

If this is your object, you will be a listener as well as a speaker. You will express your convictions as strongly as you can, but you will be willing to change your opinions if it should appear, in the light of new evidence, that you are wrong. This is the form of discussion which sensible people will learn to use, especially when they are dealing with issues of real importance.




FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

**WHICH SHALL IT BE?** The world is still free to choose.

# Atom Plan Discussed

### Eisenhower's Call for International Cooperation on Peacetime Projects Arouses Interest Here and Abroad

THERE is still much uncertainty as to what will come of the atomic energy proposal which President Eisenhower made early last month in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly. He said that America is ready to cooperate with other countries, including Russia, on a joint program to further the *peacetime* uses of atomic energy.

The President expressed hope that the various nations could, through such cooperation, develop a spirit of trust. Thus they might be better able to reach agreement on other matters, better able to establish lasting peace, and better able to stop building deadly stockpiles of weapons.

The President's speech carried two major themes: (1) the terrible atomic destruction that now threatens the world's great centers of population, and (2) the peacetime benefits which mankind can obtain from the atom "if the fearful trend of atomic military build-up can be reversed."

*What, exactly, did President Eisenhower say about the atom's destructive power?*

He said: "Atomic weapons today are more than 25 times as powerful as the weapons with which the atomic age dawned, while hydrogen weapons are [stronger yet].

"Today, the United States stockpile of atomic weapons, which, of course, increases daily, exceeds by many times the explosive equivalent of the total of all bombs and all shells that came from every plane and every gun in every theater of war through all the years of World War II."

The President pointed out that our supply of atomic bombs and shells serves as a tremendous influence to keep any would-be aggressor from attacking us or our friends. This is because everyone realizes that we would be able to strike back fiercely, and that the "aggressor's land would be laid waste."

But, says Eisenhower, even these facts do not provide the kind of security we really want. "The dread secret and the fearful engines of atomic might," he observes, "are not ours alone." Very little satisfaction is to be gained from the assurance that we can destroy Russia's cities *while Russia is destroying ours.* We want to create a situation in which *no country* will need to fear war and devastation. We want peace based on confidence instead of fear.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Thousands Killed on U.S. Highways

### Rising Death Toll from Traffic Accidents Lends Urgency to Safety Programs

SINCE the first auto fatality took place in 1899, about 1,076,000 citizens have died on the nation's highways. That is more Americans than have met death on the battlefields of all wars in which the United States has taken part. Moreover, these traffic deaths are continuing at a rate of almost 40,000 a year.

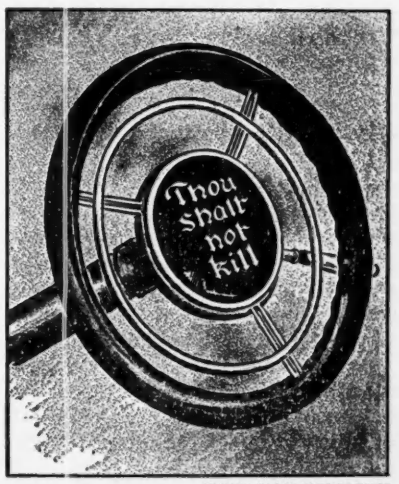
The recent holiday season was grim proof that we are far from a solution of the traffic-accident problem. The Christmas week-end toll was 532. On New Year's week end, 317 persons died in auto crashes. Countless others suffered injuries that will require long periods of recuperation, and a number of the victims will be permanently crippled.

Particularly disturbing is the fact that so many young people are involved in traffic accidents. For example, 26 per cent of all fatal traffic accidents in 1952 involved people under 25 years old. On the other hand, people in the 45 through 64 age group were involved in only 19 per cent of fatal motor accidents. Safety authorities agree that young people are involved in more accidents in proportion to their numbers than are other age groups.

Another disturbing fact is that the death rate for those 25 and under in traffic accidents has more than doubled in the last 25 years. Such an increase is not found in other age groups. For example, the death rate in the 45-64 age group has risen only by about 12 per cent over the same period.

Of course, there is far more travel by automobile today than in earlier times. Actually, the death rate *in relation to the number of miles driven* has shown a fairly steady decline over the years. In 1953 there were about seven deaths for every 100 million

*(Concluded on page 6)*




RUSSELL IN LOS ANGELES TIMES

**THE FIRST** driving commandment

# Atomic Energy

*(Continued from page 1)*

*What specific suggestions did Eisenhower make as to how this goal might be achieved?*

He said we stand ready to discuss the settlement of our outstanding disputes with Moscow, including "the problems of a divided Germany" and "the problems of Korea."

Furthermore, he expressed willingness to have American representatives meet privately with spokesmen from Russia and other nations to seek some way of ending the current atomic arms race. The United States has long favored a systematic world program for reducing armament—atomic and otherwise—under careful UN supervision, with foolproof inspection to make sure that all nations were complying.

Since Russia has been unwilling thus far to set up such a far-reaching program at once, Eisenhower suggested that we begin now on a simpler undertaking. He proposed that all countries which possess atomic explosives should contribute a small part of these materials—uranium and plutonium—to an international stockpile which would, under careful UN control, be used for *peacetime* atomic projects.

Such an endeavor, Eisenhower feels, would serve at least two purposes: First, it would benefit mankind through the development of atomic power plants, research projects, and the like. Second, it would accustom the nations to cooperating in the atomic field—and thus perhaps enable them to work out a satisfactory plan for atomic weapons control.

*What are some non-military atomic projects that might be undertaken?*

One aim, says Eisenhower, "would be to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world." The atomic process that occurs instantaneously in a bomb, yielding a gigantic wave of heat, can also be made to occur more slowly in a device known as a *reactor*. Heat from the reactor is yielded over a long period of time—rather than in a searing blast—and it can be used for developing steam to turn the generators of an electric power plant.

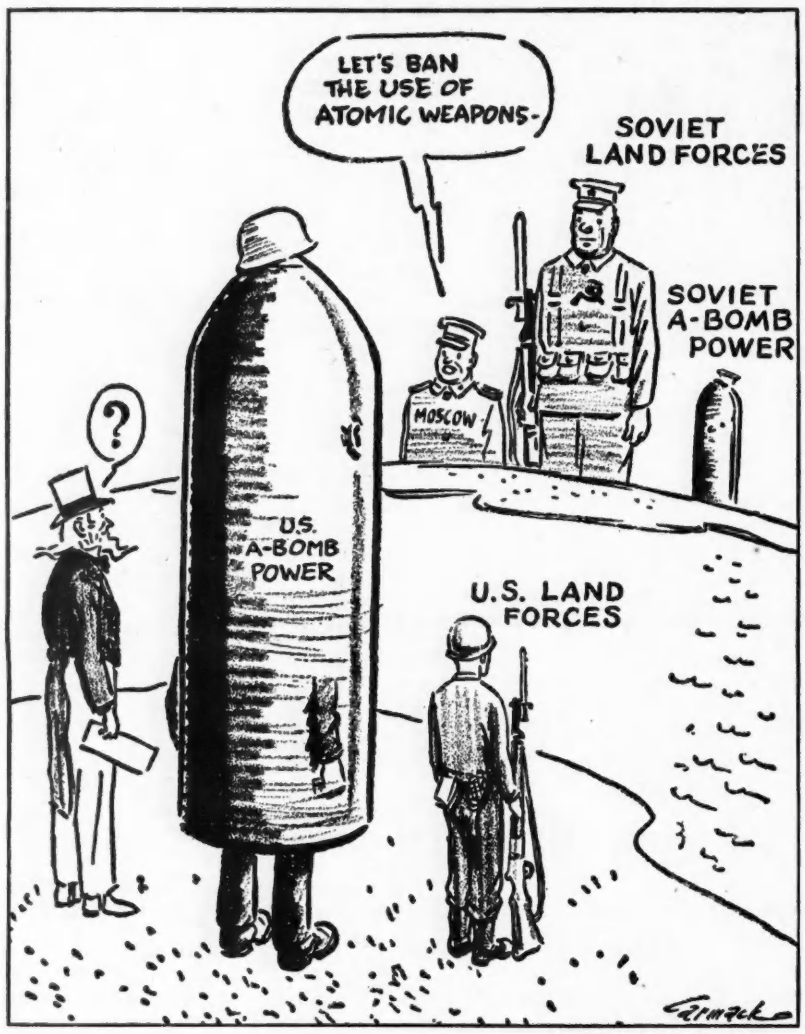
Our government has announced plans for building an electric plant that will use atomic "fuel." This experimental installation, scheduled to be finished in three or four years, is expected to produce enough electricity for a town of at least 60,000 people.

Atomic power plants are far more costly to build than are ordinary ones, so the atom is not soon likely to become a major source of electricity in the United States or in other lands where there is plenty of fuel such as coal—or plenty of water power. But the advantage of an atomic plant is that it uses almost no fuel at all. A pound of Uranium 235 (the explosive variety of uranium), "burned" in an atomic reactor, can produce more heat than we could obtain by burning 2½ million pounds of coal.

So, in remote lands where coal and other such fuels are scarce, easily transported uranium and plutonium may at last provide abundant electric power.

Another field in which the atom has already brought extensive peacetime benefits involves a group of substances known as "radioisotopes." These, for the most part, are simply materials that have been processed in atomic laboratories so that they give off rays. They are now widely used in the treatment of cancer and other diseases, and in countless kinds of scientific research work.

The special value of these radioisotopes for scientific research lies in the fact that instruments—sensitive to their rays—can detect their presence wherever they go. In other words, the substances are "tagged" for easy recognition. Within the last few years, radioisotopes have enabled doctors to learn many startling facts about the human body. It has been found, for example, that salt can appear in perspiration on the skin less than a minute after being injected into a vein.




CARMACK IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

**WHERE would that leave Uncle Sam? Russia would gain an advantage if we agreed to do away with atomic weapons and the Reds kept their big army.**

Radioisotopes from our country's atomic installations are already being used by about 1,000 hospitals and research institutions in the United States, and by about 250 outside our borders. Under President Eisenhower's plan, we presumably would cooperate more fully with other nations than we do now, in matters involving these magic substances.

*Are other free nations highly interested in our moves to step up the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes?*

Yes. The atom's peacetime possibilities have captured the imaginations of people everywhere. Informed observers think we must show the world that we are as interested in using the atom for positive human benefits as in using it for weapons of war. Thomas E. Murray, of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, presents the following argument:

Our atomic weapons program depends upon the receipt of substantial quantities of uranium from foreign nations. There are various reasons why these nations are glad to let us have their uranium. For one thing, they believe in the military protection given by our atomic weapons. Second, they count on us to lead the way in developing the atom's peacetime uses.

Murray says that these countries may decide to stop sending us uranium unless we show readiness and willingness "to help them build their [atomic] power plants of the future."

*What does Russia say about Eisenhower's recent proposal for cooperation, through the UN, on peacetime atomic development?*

The Soviet Union realizes that many of the smaller nations are pinning high hopes on Eisenhower's plan. Apparently not wanting to anger them, she has avoided any outright rejection of his offer. She says she is willing to discuss it. At the same time, she raises issues which could be meant largely for purposes of obstruction.

The Soviet government complains that Eisenhower, in his speech, made no specific mention of outlawing production and use of atomic bombs and shells. Russia has long urged that the nations of the world simply agree to ban the use of atomic weapons. (She has been hazy in her statements about setting up an inspection system to enforce the agreement.)

Russia argues that several countries promised, in 1925, not to use poison gas or germs as weapons of war. "On the basis of this agreement," says Moscow, "in the Second World War not a single government decided to use chemical and biological weapons."

The Soviets now indicate that they would like to see a similar agreement on atomic and hydrogen explosives. They hold that such a pact would be far more important than Eisenhower's peacetime program.

*How do Eisenhower's supporters reply?*

Our government has long maintained that the Russian plan would be inadequate. American authorities point out that there would be too much danger of trickery in any disarmament or weapons-control program which depends merely upon *promises*. If we are to make an agreement on the banning of atomic weapons, we insist that there be a thoroughgoing inspection system to make sure that all nations live up to their pledges. So far, the Russians have not agreed to any such inspection plan.

Furthermore, the United States today could hardly afford to accept any plan that would ban *atomic* weapons, while placing no limit on other kinds of armament. We almost certainly are far ahead of Russia in the atomic field, but we lag behind her in numbers of troops and fighting planes. We wouldn't want to ban the one type of armed strength in which we have the greatest advantage. Our government is more likely to favor a plan for eventual reduction in *all* kinds of armament.

While awaiting agreement on this extremely difficult issue, says Eisenhower, we might as well go ahead with something easier—cooperation on peacetime atomic projects.

*Is there, within the United States itself, any conflict of opinion on the Eisenhower suggestion?*

Yes. Many Americans oppose our taking any kind of joint action with other nations on atomic energy. They say: "There is too much danger that we would, under such a project, reveal secrets of great military value to a possible enemy.

"Moreover, we shouldn't give up any part of our vital uranium and plutonium stockpile—even to a UN agency which would plan to use it for peaceful purposes. Such material might fall into enemy hands.

"The essential job, after all, is to develop a plan for world control of atomic weapons. If we start working with Russia and other countries on peacetime projects, we may tend to forget the continuing danger of atomic war. Until that danger is eliminated, we mustn't be diverted by such efforts as Mr. Eisenhower suggests."

People who support the Eisenhower plan reply:

"We can cooperate extensively with other nations on peacetime atomic projects without stopping our attempts to secure international weapons control, and without revealing military secrets. Besides, in an exchange of knowledge about the atom, *our own* scientists would learn a great deal from foreign research workers.

"As to the possible danger that could come from releasing a small part of our uranium and plutonium, President Eisenhower expresses confidence that we can safeguard this material from 'surprise seizure.' Reportedly our scientists can process atomic 'fuel' so that a long and costly operation would be necessary before it could be used in bombs. Whether

## Readers Say—

Russia, it seems to me, ought to pay a higher percentage of the United Nation's expenses than she does at present. The Soviets are now scheduled to pay 14.15 per cent of the world body's total expenses. We are being asked to pay 33.33 per cent. We should ask the Reds why they can spend so much for arms while contributing so little to the UN's peace efforts.

JANICE HINDS,
Fulton, Missouri

★

Some time ago you mentioned that the International Press Institute, in a sample poll, found that many Americans are uninformed on world issues. I believe that the IPI survey doesn't present a true picture of our knowledge of world affairs. Everyone I talk to seems to be well acquainted with happenings around the globe.

SANDRA TAYLOR,
Lake Charles, Louisiana

★

I think we are doing a wonderful job of combating disease in our country, but more could be done in this field. Why not use the tax funds collected from the sale of tobacco and liquor to step up research in medicine?

WILLIE MOORE,
Farmington, New Mexico

★

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization is making progress in its fight against hunger and disease around the world. I think we should all support this organization. Perhaps, if we eventually wipe out poverty and discontent among people everywhere, wars will become a thing of the past.

CHARLES FOX,
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

★

Today we are living in a world of great fear. Russia may launch an attack on us at any time. I don't think our government should reduce military spending at a time of such great peril to us.

MARGARITE ARRIGHI,
Richmond, Virginia

★

I think our government's plan to cut down on defense spending is a wise one. It would be wasteful for us to build up huge supplies of war equipment that is already becoming obsolete. Let's spend less on "old" weapons, and use all available funds to develop new ones.

CORINNE POSLUSZNY,
Cass City, Michigan

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Eisenhower had this point in mind, or was talking about some other method of safeguarding the atomic material, we cannot be sure."

*By what means might the Eisenhower plan be brought into effect?*

Spokesmen for the United States and for other major countries are expected to hold private conferences on the subject. U. S. Secretary of State Dulles intends to discuss it with Soviet Minister Molotov in Berlin next week, if the Big Four conference takes place as originally scheduled. Also, Russia has told her ambassador in Washington to confer with U. S. officials on the subject.

Later, a formal agreement may be drawn up, signed, and approved by the participating countries. If the United States is to take part, the agreement must have Senate approval, and certain pieces of legislation will be needed from Congress as a whole.

As 1954 began, attention was focused on the question of what position *Russia* would finally take. There has been some talk of trying to put the plan into effect without her, in case she fails to approve it.

*(For a related story, see "NATO and the Atom," page 5.)*

UNITED PRESS

**STUDENT EXCHANGES** provide one of the better ways to build friendship between countries. These Finnish students, shown upon their arrival in the U. S., are attending American colleges, as are young people from many other lands. At the same time, numerous Americans are going to school abroad.

# Student Exchange Plans

## For Better World Understanding

ABOUT half of our colleges and universities, as well as a number of high schools, now have some students from foreign lands on their rolls. All told, more than 33,500 foreign students spent the 1952-53 school year in the United States. At the same time, thousands of Americans are studying in schools scattered over many parts of the globe.

The State Department's International Information Administration (IIA) and more than 500 other public and private organizations have a hand in running our student exchange programs. IIA is now sponsoring the exchange of about 8,000 persons between the United States and 72 other countries and overseas territories.

Almost a dozen different acts, treaties, and agreements between our government and those of other nations regulate the student exchange programs. One of the best known is the Fullbright Act. This act provides that funds which we obtained through the sale of our surplus World War II equipment in other lands be used to pay travel expenses of foreign students who want to study in the United States, and to finance Americans who wish to study abroad.

### Twenty-Seven Pacts

Under the act, the federal government has made agreements with 27 nations for the exchange of students. The agreements are to run for periods ranging from 5 to 20 years, depending upon the amount of money available in each foreign country as a result of the sale of surplus goods.

The Smith-Mundt Act is a law under which scholarships are made available from federal funds for American students to study abroad and for foreign persons to attend school here.

Another student exchange plan—one arranged by treaty—is that known as the Convention for the Promotion of International Relations. Also called the Buenos Aires Convention, this program provides for the annual exchange of a number of college graduates between the United States and our Latin American neighbors. The plan is financed by the governments taking part in it.

A German and an Austrian program bring a number of people from those two countries to the United States for a first-hand study of our land. The exchangees include teenagers as well as prominent business and government leaders.

Part of Finland's World War I debt payments to us is being used to finance the exchange of students between the two countries.

In addition to programs sponsored by our federal government, many private groups take a hand in helping the exchange of students. The American Association of University Women, the Institute of International Education, and the Rockefeller Foundation are among the leaders in this group.

### High School Students

Private organizations that take a special interest in high school student exchange programs include the American Field Service, the American Friends Service Committee, National Catholic Welfare Conference, and some local school systems, such as that of Newton, Massachusetts.

Under many of these exchange programs, a person spends a school year in another country and lives with a family of that land. In some cases the student pays for his own school and living expenses, but gets free passage to the country in which he studies. In other plans, all expenses are paid by the sponsoring group.

A few exchange programs offer young people of the U. S. and other lands a chance to spend a summer vacation or other short period of time abroad. Such programs are conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Youth Hostels, and a number of other organizations.

For further information on various exchange programs, write to the U. S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington 25, D. C.

## Your Vocabulary

*In each sentence below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are given on page 8, column 4.*

1. They were the work of the *aborigines* (ăb'ō-rĭj'ĭ-nēz) (a) rebels (b) ancient priests (c) newcomers (d) first natives.

2. There seemed to be a *profusion* (prō-fū'shŭn) of fur coats. (a) shortage (b) theft (c) lavish supply (d) sale.

3. His case was based on *conjecture* (kŏn-jĕk'tyer). (a) extensive evidence (b) theory and guess (c) flimsy evidence (d) informers' testimony.

4. He *abhorred* (ăb-hord') the methods used by the dictator. (a) hated (b) applauded (c) studied (d) was critical of.

5. The play was a *fiasco* (fē-ăs'kō). (a) ridiculous failure (b) success (c) comedy (d) tragedy.

6. Some of them were *idolaters* (ī-dŏl'ă-ters). (a) savages (b) worshipers of idols (c) idol destroyers (d) lazy persons.

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### CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in the numbered vertical rows according to the descriptions given here. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell out the name (singular) given to a radioactive isotope.

1. Seven of 10 traffic deaths occur in _____ areas.

2. Head of the Atomic Energy Commission (last name).

3. _____ is one of the main causes of traffic accidents.

4. Most fatal accidents take place at _____.

5. The first real atom-smashing machine, built in 1929, was the _____.

6. A metal needed in making atomic bombs.

7. Last name of a German-born scientist, now a U. S. citizen, who presented a mathematical theory that explains the workings of atomic energy.

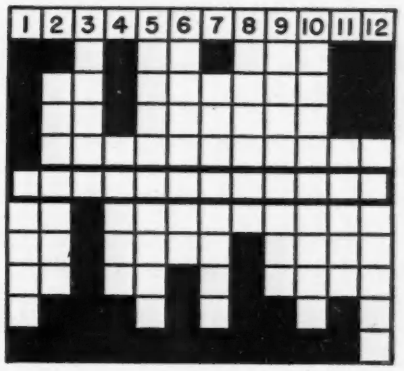
8. The first atom bomb test plant was set up at Los _____.

9. Atomic energy in peacetime can be used to produce _____ power.

10. Derived from uranium, _____ is used in the atomic process.

11. Scientists _____ the atom, as a step in producing atomic energy.

12. Fermi put into operation our first _____.




**Last Week**

ACROSS: Philadelphia. VERTICAL: 1. Khyber Pass; 2. Hindus; 3. Chicago; 4. Moslem; 5. India; 6. Indus; 7. New York; 8. Ali; 9. pact; 10. schools; 11. immigrants; 12. Los Angeles.

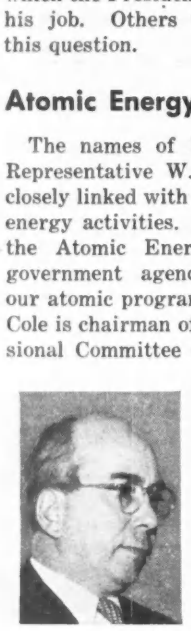
# The Story of the Week

## Eisenhower's Popularity

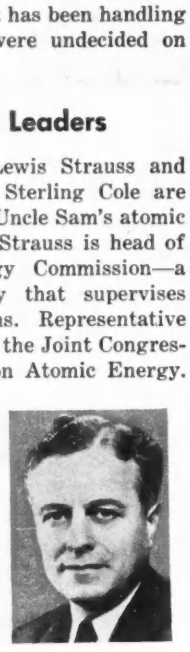
According to public opinion researcher Dr. George Gallup, the President continues to have the support of a majority of the nation's voters. In a sample poll recently conducted by Gallup, nearly 7 out of every 10 Americans questioned said they approve of Eisenhower and his policies. About 2 out of 10 voters do not like the way in which the President has been handling his job. Others were undecided on this question.

## Atomic Energy Leaders

The names of Lewis Strauss and Representative W. Sterling Cole are closely linked with Uncle Sam's atomic energy activities. Strauss is head of the Atomic Energy Commission—a government agency that supervises our atomic programs. Representative Cole is chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.



Lewis Strauss



Sterling Cole

Strauss is an old hand at working with atomic energy. In 1936, as a member of a banking firm, he helped to finance research in atomic experiments. During World War II, while serving in the Navy, he was assigned to work on the government's atomic project. He served on the Atomic Energy Commission from 1946 to 1950. Last summer, the 58-year-old Strauss returned to AEC—this time, as its chairman.

Representative Cole, a Republican from New York, heads the congressional atomic watchdog committee. As chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, Cole and other members of his group keep tabs on the nation's far-flung atomic undertakings. Now 49 years old, Cole first became a U. S. Representative in 1935.

## Issues Before Congress

The nation's lawmakers are debating President Eisenhower's 1954 legislative program, which he outlined earlier this month in his *State of the Union* message to Congress. Among other things, the President asked the lawmakers to:

1. Continue our programs for sending *arms and technical aid* to our overseas friends. Cut *economic aid* to most allies, except war-shattered South Korea.
2. Provide for a defense program which will emphasize air power and atomic weapons.
3. Enact a law under which any American, who is convicted in court of seeking the overthrow of our government by force, would lose his rights as a citizen.
4. Propose an amendment to our Constitution which would give 18-year-olds the right to vote.
5. Make certain changes in our tax laws which would, among other things, bring relief to those persons who are least able to pay.
6. Admit Hawaii as our 49th state, and extend home-rule and balloting rights to the voteless residents of the District of Columbia.
7. Extend certain social security benefits to additional groups of workers.
8. Approve a plan for U. S. cooperation with Canada to open the St. Lawrence Seaway to ocean-going vessels.
9. Boost the legal limit on our national debt. (Under existing rules, the nation's public debt can go no higher than 275 billion dollars.)
10. Increase certain postal rates to help put the country's Post Office Department on a paying basis.

## In Fourth Place

After returning from a trip to see his customers in the Middle East and in Latin American countries, an American businessman had this to say:

"West German business representatives can be found almost everywhere. They are doing a brisk business for their country. On my travels, I ran across numerous goods with 'Made in Germany' labels on them."

West Germany's trade with other countries is growing rapidly. The former enemy country, according to a recent survey, was the only major power in western Europe that sold more than it bought from other lands last year. Germans are providing the steel, machinery, and technicians to set up steel mills in Brazil, hydroelectric plants in Pakistan, and other projects in various parts of the globe.

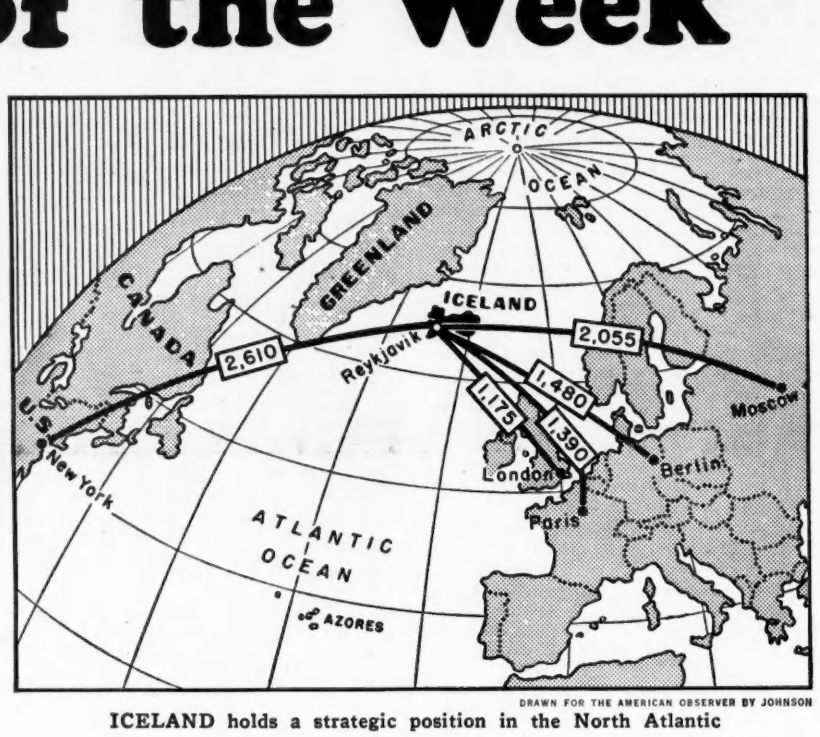
In fact, West Germany is now the fourth largest exporting nation in the world, and it is soon expected to reach third place. Only the United States, Britain, and Canada sell more goods abroad than does West Germany. The chief German exports are iron and steel, machinery, optical goods, porcelain, chemicals, and glassware. Imports include raw materials and food.

## Martin and Lewis Comedy

The comedy team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis is back in a new hilarious movie—Paramount's "Money From Home." The fast-moving comedy is based on a Damon Runyon story dealing with horse racing.

In the 3-D, Technicolor film, Martin and Lewis get mixed up with race horses and underworld figures. The two comedians laugh and sing their way through one predicament after another. In one rollicking scene, Lewis ends up as a race horse jockey by mistake.

Other members of the cast, besides Martin and Lewis, include Marjie Millar and Pat Crowley.




DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

**ICELAND holds a strategic position in the North Atlantic**

## Strategic Iceland

Russia is doing all she can to woo little Iceland away from the western nations. A member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense system, Iceland is an important air center. Its northern location puts it on one of the short air routes between North America and Europe.

In efforts to win Iceland's friendship, the Soviets recently agreed to give the island oil and cereal in return for its fish. The Reds are also encouraging Iceland's young people to visit communist lands in Europe. Russian singers, dancers, and musicians make appearances in Iceland's theaters, and more and more Soviet films are being shown on the island.

But Russia may find that it won't be easy to win the Icelanders over to her side. The people of the island are well-educated and read a good deal. Their nation has more books, magazines, and newspapers per person than any other country in the world. They keep up with world events and they probably have a good idea of what the Russians are really after.

About the size of our state of Virginia, Iceland is a cold, rugged land. Most of its 150,000 people live along the coast. Only a tiny fraction of the island's territory can be used for farming because much of it is rocky, barren, and wind-swept. Fishing is the island's most important business.

During World War II Britain and the United States set up air and naval bases on Iceland. Some of these military installations are now being used by NATO forces.

PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORP.

**"MONEY FROM HOME," a new Paramount movie (see review on this page)**

## British TV Dispute

"Commercials on our television programs? I would rather sell my set than watch programs with distracting commercials similar to those that appear on American TV shows."

"Why shouldn't we have television programs that are paid for by advertisers? That is the only way we shall get a variety of programs such as those offered to American viewers."

These are some of the arguments that can be heard in Britain today. The island nation's TV fans are sharply divided in their views over the government's decision to provide video programs paid for by advertisers.

At present, the British Broadcasting Company (BBC)—a government firm—is the only television broadcaster in Britain. BBC, unlike our networks, does not make its income from the sale of television time to advertisers. Set owners pay $5.60 a year as payment for the shows.

Now, the British government plans to provide viewers with a second TV broadcasting channel. Advertisers, rather than viewers, would pay for the programs on the new channel.

## Two Types of Spending

Very few people know just how much it is costing us and other countries to turn out deadly atomic and

hydrogen bombs. Such information, of course, is regarded as a military secret. Nevertheless, rough estimates of the cost of these weapons, and what they would buy in terms of civilian goods, have been made. Reporter Sam Stavisky, of the *Washington Post*, gives these estimated costs of nuclear weapons:

A small A-bomb probably has a price tag of $500,000. The money spent for producing this single bomb would pay for the equipment needed to supply 12 small Latin American countries with pure drinking water. The price of two small A-bombs would pay the cost of our program for helping 500,000 families in Peru grow more and better crops.

The new super A-bomb costs around three million dollars—the amount it would cost us to send 200 American technical experts to the Far East for a year's time.

An H-bomb, of medium size, probably costs 15 million dollars. Money spent for two of these bombs, if put to peacetime use, would pay for all the materials needed to build 100,000 housing units of a type now being erected in Puerto Rico!

## Troubles in Italy

Uncle Sam is keeping an anxious eye on events in Italy. That country, which is the center of the free world's defense system in southern Europe, has been rocked by one domestic crisis after another within the past few months.

More and more Italians are losing their jobs. In fact, some two million workers are already unemployed. Prices are rising. Efforts to divide large land holdings among landless workers have bogged down.

Meanwhile, Italy's numerous political parties are becoming increasingly divided in their views on what should be done to solve the land's problems.

While democratic parties bicker among themselves, Italy's communists are doing all they can to strengthen their position in the country. Western leaders fear that if Italian democratic leaders don't forget their differences and try to solve the land's many problems soon, an increasing number of voters may turn to communism in future elections.

UNITED PRESS

**ITALIANS ARE GREAT MUSIC LOVERS, and they especially like opera. Italian opera composers—Verdi, Puccini, and others of the past—are world famous. Shown here is Rome's dazzling opera house as seen from the stage.**

Italy's troubles have continued to mount ever since former Premier de Gasperi's Christian Democrats won a shaky victory at the polls last June. Extremists, including the Reds, increased their strength. This weakened the democratic forces.

De Gasperi was unable to form a stable government. Another Christian Democrat, Guiseppe Pella, then became premier of Italy. Earlier this month, Pella resigned after he repeatedly failed to get legislative support for his programs. Early last week, no new premier had yet been chosen to take Pella's place.

## White House Mail

Probably no American receives as much mail as does the President. The White House mail room is always a busy place. On the average, somewhere between 12,000 and 45,000 letters, plus 700 to 1,050 telegrams, come in from all corners of the country each week. Sometimes, when the nation is debating a highly controversial issue, thousands of messages pour into the White House in a single day.

The President and his helpers try to find out how accurately these messages represent the views of the nation as a whole. That's not easy, for certain groups often conduct special letter-writing campaigns. They hope to convince the Chief Executive that their opinions on specific matters are held by most Americans.

On one issue last year—the sentencing to death of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for handing over atomic secrets to Russia—the White House received some 200,000 messages. Of these, all but 10,000 asked the President to intervene on the Rosenberg's behalf. Yet, in a later nation-wide sample poll, a majority of Americans agreed that the atom spies were justly punished.

## NATO and the Atom

President Eisenhower's plan for world cooperation in developing the atom's *peacetime* uses (see page 1 article) should not be confused with another atomic energy proposal that is likely to receive much attention this year. The other suggestion is that we agree to share some of our *military* atomic secrets with fellow members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Through NATO, whose 14 member countries are spread over the North Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, we are helping to build a joint military force to defend western Europe against possible Soviet attack. If war comes to Europe, our troops stationed there undoubtedly will use atomic bombs and atomic artillery.

Many military leaders in this country and abroad feel that we should, therefore, tell our NATO allies more about the capabilities and effects of those weapons than we are now revealing. The Eisenhower administration has indicated that it wants Congress to pass new legislation, easing the legal limits on what we can tell friendly foreign nations.

U. S. Representative W. Sterling Cole of New York, chairman of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, says he would favor giving our allies considerable information about the *use and effects* of American atomic bombs and shells, but that he opposes sharing any secrets on *how to produce* such weapons. Certain other lawmakers oppose the release of *any* additional atomic information.

## Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the two major articles next week will be (1) Is the United States headed for a depression? and (2) the Big Four Conference which is to be held in Berlin on January 25.

**Pronunciations**

**Enrico Fermi**—ĕn-rē'kō fĕr'mē
**Guiseppe Pella**—jōō-zĕp'pē pĕl'lä
**Lise Meitner**—lē'zuh mit'nur
**Marcos Pérez Jiménez**—mär'kōs pĕr'ĕz hē-mean'ĕz

Education is not given for the purpose of earning a living; it's learning what to do with a living after you earn it. —ABRAHAM LINCOLN

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

"By the way, sir," asked the waiter, "how would you like your steak?"

"Very much, indeed," answered the man who had been waiting a half hour.

★

Little Joan was having her first piano lesson. After discovering the pedals, she solemnly asked, "When do I put on the brakes?"

BEAVEN IN SATURDAY EVENING POST

**"I like the job fine, sir. My problem is to find something to do on the outside to earn a living!"**

Joe: "That's a funny pair of socks you're wearing—one of them is green and one's red."

Tom: "Yes, and strangely enough, I have another pair just like them at home."

★

Cad: "When you sang 'My Old Kentucky Home,' there was a man in the audience who burst into tears."

Singer: "I suppose he was a Kentuckian."

Cad: "No, he was a musician."

★

Customer: "When I bought this cat you told me he was splendid for mice. Why, he won't go near them."

Clerk: "Well, isn't that splendid for the mice?"

★

My friend laughed when I spoke to the waiter in French. He wouldn't have been so amused if he had known that I told the waiter to give him the check.

★

Inexperienced Guest: "Do you run a bus between the hotel and the railroad station?"

Manager of Resort Hotel: "No, sir."

Guest: "That's strange. All my friends said you'd get me coming and going."

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# Highway Accidents

*(Concluded from page 1)*

miles driven by motor vehicles as compared to 16 deaths in 1924 and 12 in 1938.

These latter figures are no reason for optimism, though, for the fact is that the *total number* of traffic accidents continues to increase. Moreover, traffic authorities fear that the problem will become worse.

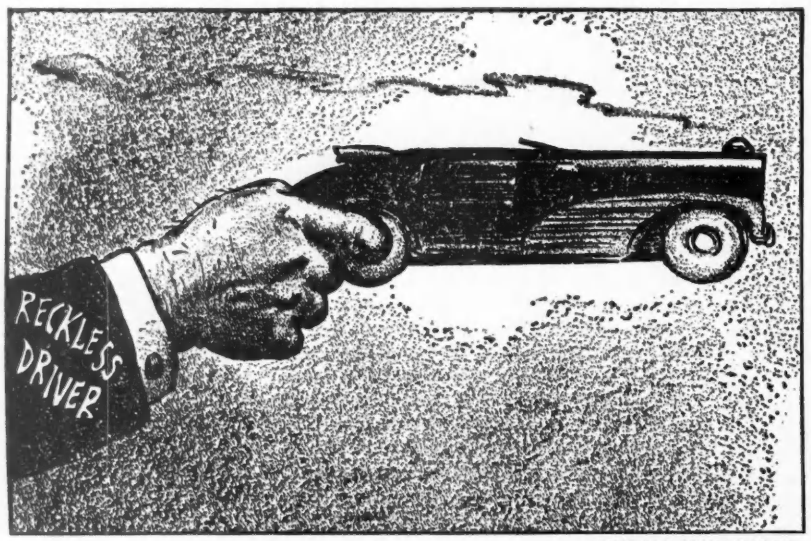
Behind their fear is this situation: It is expected that more motor vehicles will be on the highway each year, yet it is unlikely that the nation's road network will be extended or improved fast enough to take care of the increasing traffic load. As a result, highways will become more and more crowded. As they do, the likelihood of accidents will almost surely increase.

Must we look forward to a continuing blood bath on the nation's roads? Is this one of the prices that we have to pay for our machine civilization? Or can we take effective steps to prevent accidents?

Safety experts agree that traffic deaths *can be cut*. If we are to prevent these fatal accidents, though, we must understand the factors involved in them. Some of the facts which authorities have learned about automobile accidents are these:

Rural areas are the most dangerous. Seven out of 10 traffic deaths occur on country highways. Most bad accidents occur at night. The death rate is nearly three times as high at night as in daylight hours.

The most dangerous ages for driving are under 25 and over 65. Among the elderly group, failing eyesight and hearing and slowness of reaction are special hazards. The dangers to young people stem generally from inexperience, lack of judgment, recklessness, and—in many cases—inadequate training.




SHOEMAKER IN CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

**AN AUTOMOBILE can be as dangerous as a gun when it's in the wrong hands. When you drive, don't gamble with human lives.**

The largest number of non-pedestrian traffic accidents are caused by collisions, and situations where the driver loses control—running off the road, for example. High speed leads to many accidents. Drinking is also a major cause of accidents, and so is fatigue.

Most drivers involved in fatal accidents had violated one or more laws. The three most important violations in a recent year were: excessive speed, failure to keep right of the center line, and failure to give the right of way.

These, then, are some of the varied factors behind traffic crashes. In attempting to prevent them, safety officials employ a three-fold approach involving the *machine*, the *road*, and the *driver*. At least one of these factors is bound up with every traffic accident.

Of the three, the machine is today regarded as the safest. Many advances have been made in safe car design—for example, four-wheel brakes, safety glass, and all-steel bodies. Good progress has been made, too, in improving tires and in lowering the center of gravity so that the vehicle has less tendency to roll on the turns.

There are, to be sure, still problems to be solved. For example, the use of safety glass in windshields has reduced injuries from cuts but has introduced a new problem of concussion caused when the head strikes the windshield in a crash. The frequency of night accidents is causing extensive research on lighting.

Another problem concerns the speed and power of modern cars. Some feel that an increase in speed is desirable, since it enables motorists wishing to pass others on highways to do so quickly. Others feel that we have already gone too far in making cars powerful and fast, and that the maximum speeds of most cars should be reduced as a safety measure.

Highways are still not as safe as they should be. However, a good deal of progress has been made during recent years in making some of our roads more accident-proof. The big, new super-highways have not proved as safe as it was originally hoped they would be, but on the whole their safety records are better than those of the roads they replaced.

Chief trouble with most of our present highway system—from a safety standpoint—is that it was constructed when the present heavy traffic load was unforeseen. In addition, it was poorly maintained during the war years.

The big needs today are more multi-laned roads, wider lanes and shoulders, and the removal of posts, fences, and other obstructions that are now too close to the driving areas. The federal government and practically all states are presently spending record sums to improve the highways, but it will be a long and expensive task.

| AT A CONSTANT SPEED OF | YOU CAN DRIVE 400 MILES IN | *But*-IF YOU HAVE AN INJURY ACCIDENT, THE CHANCES OF SOMEONE BEING KILLED ARE |
|---|---|---|
| 45 m.p.h. | 8 hrs. 54 min. | 1 in 16 |
| 55 m.p.h. | 7 hrs. 18 min. | 1 in 12 |
| 65 m.p.h. | 6 hrs. 10 min. | 1 in 6 |

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

**SPEED BOOSTS the risk of accident and death. Remember these figures when you feel tempted to "step on it," and slow down to reasonable speed.**

Improvements in cars and in highways are important, but the key factor in every automobile accident is usually the driver. Good driving habits and careful observance of the law on the part of the driver are the first step toward safety on the highways.

The best time to instill good habits is when the driver first takes the wheel. Thus, the trend toward driver training in the schools is particularly important. Today more than 8,000 of the country's 25,000 high schools give some type of driver training. Studies show that young people who have received such instruction are involved in only half as many accidents and traffic offenses as are others of their age groups.

### Educating for Safety

In areas where the traffic-safety record is good, the average citizen knows what is expected of him. Traffic safety is promoted in a wide variety of ways. Newspaper stories, radio-TV programs, and special movies stress safety rules.

More than 1,200 cities have safety councils or similar organizations. These groups organize safety work on a community basis. Many counties promote these organizations, and some 30 states have set up special safety groups. In areas where positive steps are taken to educate the people on traffic safety, the accident rate invariably makes a marked drop.

Educating Americans to obey traffic rules is one effective way to reduce the number of accidents. Another way is through enforcement of the law.

Communities that strictly enforce their traffic laws have far fewer auto deaths than those that are lax in policing. U. S. cities which have reduced traffic fatalities in recent years include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, St. Louis, Syracuse, and others.

Unfortunately these cities are not typical. In most American communities, the traffic toll has risen steadily over the years. In these latter cities there is often lax enforcement of the laws.

The cause of traffic safety is likewise harmed by the failure of certain states to set high standards of licensing. It is much easier to get licenses in some states than in others. Safety authorities are trying to bring about uniform standards on such matters as licensing, periodic inspection of motor vehicles, and re-examination of drivers with bad records.

Still another obstacle to traffic safety is the failure of a number of states and cities to streamline their courts in such a way as to take care of traffic violations speedily. In certain areas, courts are actually a year behind schedule in settling the cases of traffic violators. Thus, these violators, though they may be unfit to drive, go on driving and in some cases commit other accidents after they should have been barred from the roads.

Traffic safety is such a many-sided problem that the individual may sometimes feel quite helpless to promote it. The fact is, though, that it is the individual American who can and must play the major role in improving our safety record. Here are definite steps that you can take to help cut down the frightful highway death toll.

(1) *Know what the local traffic rules are and observe them, whether you are an auto driver, a bicycle rider, or a pedestrian.* For example, do you know what the speed limit is in your neighborhood? Do you know the correct hand signals for a driver? Do you consistently abide by these rules?

(2) *Know how your own community rates in traffic safety.* How many traffic deaths have occurred this year? Is the figure an improvement over other years? Are there places in your community where accidents happen quite frequently? Is every possible safety precaution being taken by authorities?

Do you feel that licensing requirements are stiff enough? Are the police doing a good job of enforcing traffic laws? Are the streets kept in good condition as regards stop-lights, crosswalks, freshly painted center lines, and so forth? Is court action against traffic offenders reasonably speedy and efficient? Can offenders get tickets "fixed," or is justice handed out on an equal basis to all?

### School-boy Patrol

Is the school-boy patrol system operating in your community? Does your high school offer driver-training courses? Do you feel that your community puts enough emphasis on traffic-safety measures? Do you feel that the minimum age limit for driving in your locality should be raised as a step toward cutting down accidents among teen-agers?

Some of these questions may be answered from your own observation. On others you may have to consult local police and traffic officials. Once you have found the answers, you will have a good idea of what is needed to achieve a higher degree of traffic safety.

(3) *Support the organizations in your community that are working for traffic safety.* Write to your local newspaper on safety needs. By word and by example, induce others to work for accident prevention.

(We should like to have your views on this whole problem—also to know any outstanding contributions which are being made in your community to reduce traffic accidents.)

## Science News

TONIGHT (January 18) stargazers will be out to view an interesting event. The earth will come between the sun and the moon, causing an eclipse of the moon.

At 7:50 Eastern Standard Time, the moon will begin to go into the shadow caused when the earth blocks out the sun's rays. At 9:17 the moon will be completely within the earth's shadow. At 9:32 the moon will be halfway through the eclipse, and at 9:47 it will begin to move out of the earth's shadow. At 11:14 the moon will have left the shadow.

While the eclipse is taking place, the moon will not be completely blacked out. Some of the sun's rays will bend around the earth and give the moon a little light. The moon will appear to be reddish or copper in color.

Tonight's eclipse is just one of five eclipses in 1954. One, in fact, occurred on January 5, when the moon came between the sun and the earth. However, this could be seen only in the southern part of the world.

On June 30, the moon will come between the earth and the sun, causing an eclipse of the sun. The fourth eclipse, when the earth will again cut off the sun's light from the moon, will take place on July 15. The last eclipse will be on December 25.

Astronomers, of course, are always interested observers of these events, but they are not the only ones. Many ordinary people are also spectators.

★

Whaling has become quite a science. This month over 200 vessels, in 18 fleets, are out looking for whales. In each fleet there are small vessels called catchers and one large ship.

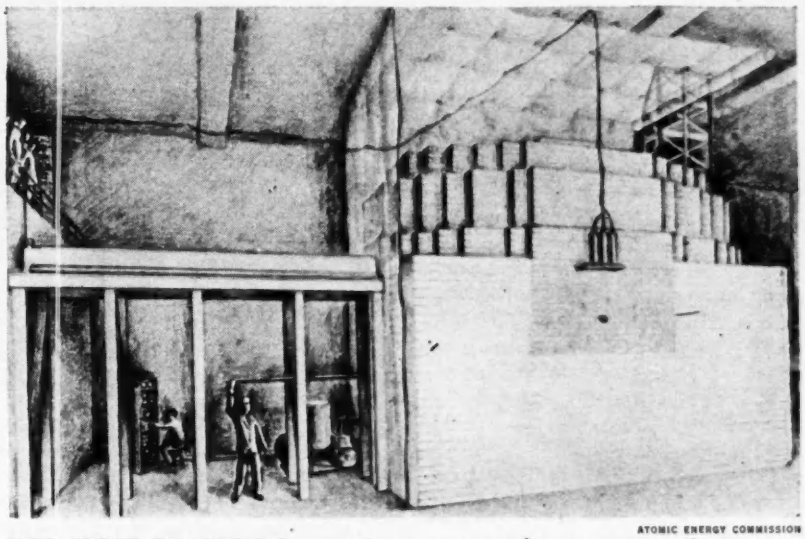
As soon as a whale is sighted, the catchers close in. The nearest one fires at the whale with a gun which throws a harpoon. Seconds after the whale is hit, a small bomb in the harpoon goes off.

Then the catchers tow the dead whale to a large vessel—the factory ship. There it is cut up, and the meat is stored in freezing rooms. The fat is boiled to get oil for making soap, lard, and margarine.

The catching of whales is permitted only certain months each year, since there is a limited supply of these huge sea creatures.

UNITED PRESS

**TINY but powerful. The midget loudspeaker in this pocket-size RCA radio will put out enough volume to fill a large room. The small transistors (shown beneath the radio) do the work of bigger vacuum tubes. The radio is experimental and not yet on the market.**



ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

**THE FIRST REACTOR for atomic energy experiments was put into use at the University of Chicago in 1942**

# Historical Backgrounds

## How the Atom Bomb Came About

MANY Americans seem to think that the United States alone is entitled to credit for building the first atomic bomb (see page 1 story). Actually, as is the case with other great developments, the scientists of many lands share honors with ours for work that made possible the atomic bomb.

Before a bomb could be built, scientists first had to find out about the atom—that tiny, invisible particle of matter. They then had to learn that the atom, small as it is, can be broken into even smaller parts—for splitting the uranium atom is part of the process of developing atomic energy. And, of course, uranium itself had to be discovered.

### The Atom Theory

The story has its beginning in ancient times. Democritus, the Greek teacher who lived more than 2,000 years ago, was one of the first to believe that all matter is made up of atoms—particles too small to be seen. Democritus lacked the scientific knowledge necessary to prove his theory, and little attention was paid to it for centuries.

The Greek teacher's theory finally was revived in the 1800's by John Dalton, an English schoolmaster. Dalton's experiments opened the road to modern chemistry, which has played a leading role in development of the atomic bomb.

An impure form of uranium, the atomic energy ingredient, was discovered in 1789 by M. H. Klaproth, a German scientist. Frenchman Eugene Péligot found the pure form of uranium in 1841, and his experiments provided a basis for uranium chemistry.

England's Ernest Rutherford, in the 1900's, carried on experiments to show that the atom is made up of (1) a nucleus, which carries a positive electrical charge, and (2) one or more neutrons, which have a negative charge. Rutherford, in 1919, carried out tests to smash, or split, the atoms of nitrogen.

German-born Albert Einstein, the famous mathematician, presented the Einstein Theory early in the 1900's. This theory was of the greatest importance in the development of atomic energy and the bomb. Einstein theorized that the tiniest amounts of matter can be turned into huge amounts of energy, or power. This conversion of matter into energy is the secret of the atomic bomb—and of atomic energy for peacetime use.

In the bomb, atoms of the elements plutonium and U-235 (derived from uranium) are split. In the process, a tiny amount of the split matter disappears. It reappears as explosive power (energy).

E. O. Lawrence of the University of California, in 1929, built an atom-smashing machine, the cyclotron. The machine was of great value in carrying on studies of the atom and its amazing structure.

In 1938, Otto Hahn in Germany first split the uranium atom. Hahn did not fully realize what he had done, but his assistant, Dr. Lise Meitner, did. Dr. Meitner was Jewish and had to leave Germany to escape nazi persecution. She took with her the theory that Hahn's experiment opened the way to turning uranium into power.

Professor Einstein, upon hearing of Dr. Meitner's report, informed President Roosevelt that the Germans might be able to make an atomic bomb. The President authorized an atomic project in the United States, and we entered the race to build a bomb—a race that we won over our enemies in World War II.

### Key to the Bomb

At the University of Chicago in 1942, Italian-born Enrico Fermi put into operation the world's first reactor. It split uranium atoms in a swift, continuing chain. Science had found the key to making the atomic bomb.

Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer of California was named chief of an atom-bomb laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, in November 1942. Leading American, British, Canadian, and other scientists worked there and elsewhere while World War II went on.

The work paid off with success in 1945. On July 16, the first test bomb was exploded in New Mexico. On August 6 and August 8, 1945, the first atomic bombs to be used in war were dropped on Japan.

Since the war, experiments have gone on steadily. We have made progress with the "H-bomb" (hydrogen bomb), which is more destructive than the older atomic weapon. We and our allies are no longer in the field alone, though. Russia has had the atomic bomb since 1949. In 1953, we learned that Russia had also exploded a hydrogen bomb.

## SPORTS

AS THE indoor track season gets under way, high-flying Bob Richards of Long Beach, California, will be shooting for new heights in the pole vault. For several years the wiry athlete has been the world's best performer in this spectacular event. Before he retires from competition, Richards—now the pastor of a church in Long Beach—hopes to set a new world record.

In action, the 27-year-old Richards is a picture of speed, strength, and coordination. Carrying a long pole, he sprints toward the high bar supported on upright standards. While going at top speed, he drops one end of the pole into a box embedded in the ground and swings himself into the air on the other end of the pole. As he reaches the bar, he must lift himself over it, pushing the pole back so that it will not knock the bar off.

Richards' chief rival this winter will probably be Don Laz of Urbana, Illinois. In the 1952 Olympic Games, Richards finished first among the world's pole vaulters, and Laz was second. The pole vault is an event at which U. S. athletes have always excelled. An American has won this event in every Olympic competition since 1908.

The record height in the pole vault is 15 feet, 8½ inches. It was achieved by Cornelius Warmerdam, a Californian, who retired from athletic competition in 1944. Richards has cleared 15 feet, 5 inches. Laz has also topped the 15-foot mark. Only one other man—Don Cooper, former University of Nebraska star—has cleared 15 feet.

Two years ago in a Chicago meet, Richards came within a hair's breadth of setting a new world mark. He actually cleared the bar at a height more than half an inch above Warmerdam's record. As he fell, however, his hand brushed the bar just enough to knock it off.

UNITED PRESS

**BOB RICHARDS goes up—and over**

The pole vault was originally a means of clearing brooks, ditches, and fences. Only in the latter part of the last century did it become an athletic event in track meets. The first poles were heavy and unwieldy. Then bamboo poles came into use. Now the poles are often made of aluminum.

Today high school athletes are turning in some excellent performances in this difficult event. Holder of the national high school record is Ronald Morris of Burbank, California. Representing Burrows High School, Morris last May vaulted 13 feet, 11⅛ inches.

# Careers for Tomorrow

## The Care of Trees

IF YOU would like to combine vigorous outdoor work with mental activity, you may want to become a tree surgeon or tree expert.

**Your duties,** if you decide to enter this field, will be to trim trees, to get rid of dead or diseased branches, and to make trees harmonize with the nearby buildings or landscape. From time to time, you may work with landscape gardeners to see that trees and large shrubs are handled properly when they are transplanted.

You will diagnose the ills that afflict trees and carry out whatever remedial work is required. Experts in this field also brace trees to keep them from splitting, and inject solutions into the trunks to aid in controlling the tree's health and vigor.

**Your preparation** may begin as soon as you finish high school. You can learn the work either through an informal apprenticeship with one of the smaller tree-care firms, or by going to special schools maintained by the larger concerns.

The course of training at these schools usually covers about two years. Students begin their training by taking a few weeks' preliminary study in the classroom. They learn to use ropes and other safety devices and how to handle tree instruments. They also study the theoretical principles that govern tree care.

After this preliminary training, the men go into the field with experienced crews and actually begin to work on trees. They also continue their theoretical study through lessons outlined for them by the school. After the full course has been completed, a man will receive a certificate. He may then be offered a job as assistant foreman by the company that operates the school he attends, or he may start out as a crewman for that firm. Most graduates of these schools quickly move into responsible jobs.

A small tuition is sometimes charged for the preliminary training. When the men go into the field, though, they receive a salary which increases as they gain in experience.

**Your advancement** in this work can be rapid. There are various supervisory positions, such as foreman, open to capable men. If you have sales ability you can become a company representative. These representatives sell a firm's services and make general contacts with the clients. Some experienced treemen start their own firms.

**Your income** as a beginner is likely to average about $60 to $65 a week. A supervising foreman in the field earns about $5,000 a year. Company representatives may earn as much as $8,000 a year. Usually, the larger tree companies have profit-sharing plans for their employes, so an individual's income in any one year depends upon how succesful his firm has been.

HARRIS & EWING

**A JOB OUTDOORS is one of the attractions for tree surgeons**

**Advantages** include the opportunities to work outdoors most of the time, to get ahead, and to do challenging work. One who really likes to work with trees wouldn't exchange this vigorous outdoor life for any other career.

**Disadvantages** to be found in this field are (1) some tasks are dangerous; (2) treemen must frequently do hard physical work; and (3) a tree surgeon's job often requires him to travel.

**Further information** can be secured from tree-care companies in your locality. Look in the classified section of your local telephone book under "Tree Surgeons" for firms of this type.

Two leading schools that train tree experts are the Bartlett School of Tree Surgery, Stamford, Connecticut, and the Davey Institute of Tree Surgery, Kent, Ohio. Either school will send information on request.

# Venezuela Steps Up Farming

## Country, Rich in Oil and Iron, Now Seeks to Grow Its Own Food

VENEZUELA is going steadily ahead this year with a big project to raise her total agricultural production. In order to bring this about, the Latin American nation is taking two steps: (1) She is settling thousands of European immigrants on farms; (2) she is clearing away thick jungles to get land for the farms.

Somewhat more than half of Venezuela's 5 million people now live on farms, but they do not grow enough food for the entire population. Nearly half of the people live in on near cities. They work in the country's big oil fields and refineries, or in small cotton textile and other factories. Food for the industrial workers must be bought from other countries.

### Buys Mostly from Us

Venezuela gets the food she needs—along with machinery and other products—chiefly from the United States. The South American nation is able to pay for its purchases by sale of its major products—oil, iron ore, coffee, and cacao (for making cocoa).

Although business is good now, Venezuela might not always be able to sell her goods abroad. So she wants to be able to grow the food she needs on her own soil. Then, if foreign sales drop, the country will not be in danger of having a food shortage. If Venezuela does not need to buy so much food from other lands in the future, she can afford to purchase more foreign industrial products and also machinery for her factories.

Under the new farm program, the Venezuelan government lends money at low interest rates to each immigrant family for the purchase of land, tractors, and other machinery. The newly arrived farmer repays the loan in small installments over a number of years.

Laborers with bulldozers and dynamite cleared hundreds of thousands of acres of jungle to get land for the farms. Palm trees, some of them more than 100 feet high, were dragged away, and the land was leveled. The work so far has made it possible to establish nearly 20 large, new agricultural regions.

DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

**MT. BOLIVAR is an iron ore area**

The soil in these areas is rich. Almost any kind of crop can be grown. The climate is tropical, so there is no danger from frost or drought. A farmer can grow two crops each year—corn, say, during the dry season of the year, and rice during the rainy, wet season between April and October.

Several hundred thousand acres of land have been cleared at present, but more is being made available every day. Within 20 years, perhaps 10 million acres of new land may be under cultivation. By 1975, Venezuela hopes to be able to have enough food for herself and be able to export some to other countries.

Venezuela, with an area of around 352,000 square miles, is about as large as Texas plus Utah. The South American nation's oil reserves are among the richest in the world, and sale of the oil accounts for around 95 per cent of the country's income from exports.

### Iron Ore Sales

Iron ore is just beginning to be a major export. For years, the jungles and mountains made it difficult to get at the ore. Engineers conquered the obstacles in 1949, though, and shipment of the ore to the United States has been going on since 1950.

Caracas, the capital, has a population of approximately half a million. The city was founded in 1567, and is one of the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. It is, nevertheless, a modern city with smartly styled office buildings and stores.

Venezuela is a republic. Due to serious conflicts among political parties, however, democratic methods have not always been followed in government during recent years. Colonel Marcos Pérez Jiménez is President.

# Study Guide

## Traffic Accidents

1. Why might it be said that, to Americans, the automobile has been more deadly than weapons of war?

2. Where do most accidents happen? At what time of day? What age groups are most often involved?

3. What are some of the safety problems that confront automobile designers?

4. Name several of the major *highway* safety needs.

5. When is the best time to instill good habits in a driver?

6. How do many communities with good safety records tackle the problem of preventing accidents?

7. How can court reforms help promote traffic safety?

### Discussion

1. How do you feel that traffic accidents involving young people can most effectively be reduced in number? Explain.

2. Do you think that your community is doing all it should to promote traffic safety? Why, or why not?

## Atomic Energy

1. Give the comparison that President Eisenhower used in describing the total explosive power of our nation's present atomic stockpile.

2. Explain how this stockpile serves as an influence for peace, yet fails to give us the security we really want.

3. Describe Eisenhower's plan for world cooperation on peacetime atomic projects. What two major purposes does he think it would serve?

4. Tell about some non-military atomic uses that might be promoted under the Eisenhower plan.

5. What objection has Russia made concerning Eisenhower's recent proposal? How do the President's supporters reply?

6. Within the United States itself, what arguments are presented for and against immediate world cooperation on peacetime atomic enterprises?

### Discussion

1. On the whole, do you favor the peacetime atomic energy proposal that President Eisenhower has made? Why or why not?

2. Do you agree or disagree that such an endeavor would be likely to bring the various nations closer to an agreement on atomic weapons control? Explain your position.

## Miscellaneous

1. According to a recent Gallup poll, how much public support does Eisenhower have for his policies?

2. Tell how Lewis Strauss and W. Sterling Cole are connected with the U. S. atomic energy program.

3. Name five recommendations which Eisenhower made to Congress in his State of the Union message.

4. What was the only major power in western Europe to sell more goods to other lands than it bought from the outside during 1953?

5. What television issue is now being debated in Britain?

6. Briefly describe the agricultural program now being carried out in Venezuela.

## References

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"The H-Bomb," by Ralph Lapp, *New York Times Magazine*, January 3, 1954.

### Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (d) first natives; 2. (c) lavish supply; 3. (b) theory and guess; 4. (a) hated; 5. (a) ridiculous failure; 6. (b) worshipers of idols.